## REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-11 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 13 has been added. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include a portion of the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 11, as described hereinbelow.

### Claim Objections

Claims 1-12 have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

### Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bacon, U.S. Patent No. 4,466,864. Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Peace, U.S. Patent No. 6,544,391. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §

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103(a) as being unpatentable by Bacon. Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Peace or Bacon, in view of Mori, U.S. Patent No. 5,496,463, Tremaine, U.S. Patent No. 6,183,195, Lees, U.S. Patent No. 4,497,345, Bergervoet, U.S. Patent No. 5,596,152 and Uzoh, U.S. Patent No. 6,685,814. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a portion of the subject matter in allowable claim 11. In particular, independent claim 1 now recites "a switcher having a first switching point and a corresponding second switching point, a first switching point and alternately operating with either the positive electrode or the negative electrode." Since the Examiner has correctly acknowledged that the utilized references fail to teach this claimed feature, it is believed that claim 1 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

### Additional Claim

Additional claim 13 has been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claim 1, as well as due to the additional recitation included in this claim. Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claim 13 are respectfully requested.

## CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.
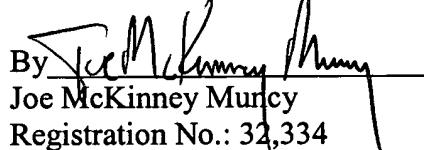
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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